

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJECT: SEMI-ANNUAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS/CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATIO
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REF: A) BERN A-253, AUGUST 1974 B) STATE 12151

(A) SUMMARY: THE DRUG PROBLEM IN SWITZERLAND INCREASED
SUBSTANTIALLY DURING THE LAST SIX MONTHS OF 1974. THERE
WAS A NOTICEABLE INCREASE IN HARD DRUG USE. ENFORCEMENT
ACTIVITIES HAVE INTENSIFIED. THERE IS NO INDICATION,
HOWEVER, THAT THE PEAK IN DRUG USE HAS BEEN REACHED.

AS REPORTED IN REFAIRGRAM THE SWISS FEDERAL POLICE
AUTHORITIES DEALING WITH THE DRUG PROBLEM MAINTAIN
CLOSE RELATIONS WITH DEA PARIS AND PREFER NOT TO MAINTAIN
TWO CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION WITH THE USG. THIS REPORT WAS
PREPARED WITH THE UNDERSTANDING, THEREFORE, THAT CERTAIN
INFO CONCERNING SWITZERLAND MAY BE MORE READILY AVAILABLE
FROM DEA.

B) ABUSE: THE PATTERN OF DRUG CONSUMPTION IN SWITZERLAND
HAS SHIFTED. PREVIOUSLY ALMOST ALL DRUG USE INVOLVED
MARIJUANA OR HASHISH. THOSE DRUGS CONTINUE TO BE THE MOST
WIDELY USED BUT THE INCIDENCE OF HARD DRUG CONSUMPTION IS
INCREASING. AN INDICATION OF THE INCREASE IS THE NUMBER
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OF DRUG-RELATED DEATHS. IN THE LAST FIVE MONTHS OF 1974

FOUR PERSONS IN BERN ALONE DIED AS A RESULT OF HARD
DRUG ABUSE.

THE TYPICAL DRUG USER IS SAID TO BE YOUNG AND MALE. DRUG
EXPERIMENTATION (E.G. CANABIS) OFTEN BEINGS WHEN A YOUNG
MAN LEAVES SCHOOL (ONLY 10 PERCENT OF SWISS STUDENTS ENTER A
UNIVERSITY)AND FOR THE FIRST TIME HAS MONEY AND REDUCED
SCHOOL AND FAMILY SUPERVISION. THIS INCREASE IN DRUG USE
BY AN OTHAPWIDE LAW-ABIDING GROKNETIMDPLUS THE INCREASE IN
HARD DRUG USE BY A SMALL MINORITY OF DRUG USERS, HAS
CONTRIBUTED TO A DE FACTO POLICE DECISION TO IGNORE AMATEUR
CANABIS DEALERS AND THEIR CUSTOMERS. THE 10 MAN NARCOTICS
SQUAD IN BASEL IS SO OVERWORKED ATTEMPTING TO APPREHEND
MAJOR TRAFFICKERS THAT A NARCOTICS AGENT TOLD A
VISITING EMBASSY OFFICER THAT WITHIN 100 YARDS OF THE
NARCOTICS SQUAD'S OFFICES ONE COULD BUY HASHISH OR
MARIJUANA. THE AGENT ADDED RHETORICALLY "WHERE COULD WE
PUT THEM EVEN IF WE ARRESTED THEM?"

C) PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING: THERE IS NO OPIUM, COCA
OR CANABIS (EXCEPT AT THE SMALLEST LEVEL) PRODUCTION
IN SWITZERLAND.

D) TRAFFICKING TRENDS: THE SWISS NARCOTICS POLICE TEND
TO VIEW AMBSTERDAM AS THE EUROPEAN CENTER OF THE DRUG
TRAFFIC. THE LARGEST SINGLE INTERCEPTION OF HEROIN IN
SWITZERLAND, 4,100 GRAMS OF BROWN SUGAR HEROIN, WAS
MADE AT THE GENEVA AIRPORT ON DEC 5, 1974 IN THE
LUGGAGE OF 3 MALAYSIANS WHO WERE TRANSPORTING THE
HEROIN FROM MALAYSIA TO AMSTERDAM BY AIR. NO INFO IS
AVAILABLE AS TO FURTHER DETAILS OF THE OPERATION, BUT
THE 3 MALAYSIANS REMAIN IN PRISON UNDER INVESTIGATIVE
ARREST. MOST OF THE HASHISH IMPORTED INTO SWITZERLAND
APPEARS TO ORIGINATE IN MOROCCO.

E) REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL COOPERATION:, SWITZERLAND
IS A MEMBER OF INTERPOL, THE BRUSSELS-BASED COUNCIL
ON CUSTOMS COOPERATION AND UN COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS. IT
IS AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN THESE ORGANIZATIONS.

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F) EMBASSY AND HOST GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES: AS PREVIOUSLY
REPORTED SWITZERLAND IS A VERY INDEPENDENT COUNTRY WHICH
WOULD RESIST ANY ATTEMPT BY THE USG TO INFLUENCE ITS
DOMESTIC POLICIES. DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD THE SWISS
CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION DID, HOWEVER, SEND TWO REPRESENTATIVES
TO ATTEND THE CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT MID-MANAGEMENT
COURSE III GIVEN BY THE U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE IN
WASHINGTON. THE RESPONSE ON THE PART OF THE TWO

PARTICIPANTS WAS ENTHUSIASTIC. THE SWISS CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION HAS JUST BEGUN A COURSE OF INSTRUCTION IN NARCOTICS INTERDICTION FOR CUSTOMS OFFICERS. THE CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION STATES THAT IT IS THE MOST EXTENSIVE COURSE IT HAS EVER GIVEN.

G) ENFORCEMENT: SINCE ALMOST ALL DRUGS MUST BE BROUGHT INTO SWITZERLAND (AND THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS OF OPIUM DOWN STREAM REFINING), THE FOCUS OF THE SWISS ENFORCEMENT EFFORT IS ON THE CUSTOMS OPERATION. SWISS CUSTOMS REPORTED 387 CASES OF DRUG INTERCEPTION COMPARED TO 249 IN 1973. THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THE CASES INVOLVED AUTO AND TRUCK MOVEMENTS. THE FOLLOWING TABLE LISTS AMOUNTS OF DRUGS SEIZED FOR CALENDAR YEARS 1974 AND 1973. ALL QUANTITIES ARE METRIC GRAMS:

	1974	1973
CANABIS	169,276.6	485,953
(OF WHICH LIQUID)	803	4,002
OPIUM	887.9	1,615.3
MORPHINE	486	53.5
HEROIN	4,704.1	32
COCAIN	2,042	103

COURT SENTENCES IMPOSED FOR NARCOTICS OFFENSES DO NOT APPEAR TO HAVE VARIED GREATLY FROM THE PREVIOUS REPORTING PERIOD.

H. TREATMENT/REHABILITATION/EDUCATION: THIS CATEGORY RESISTS GENERALIZATION DUE TO THE DECENTRALIZED SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT IN SWITZERLAND. A VARIETY OF PROGRAMS ARE IN EXISTENCE BUT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO CHARACTERIZE THEM. THERE ARE NO US FINANCED PROJECTS/ ACTIVITIES IN SWITZERLAND IN THIS AREA.

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